

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS YO

SUBJ: SECOND ATTACK ON DELO IN KOMUNIST

REF BELGRADE 3759, 3684

1. SUMMARY: FOR SECOND WEEK IN ROW, KOMUNIST TAKES LJUBLJANA DAILY DELO TO TASK FOR ITS EDITORIAL POLICIES. ARTICLE IN CURRENT ISSUE OF MAGAZINE OF LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS OF YUGOSLAVIA (LCY) ATTACKS DELO FOR OPEN LETTER CRITICIZING FEDERAL SECRETARIAT FOR INFORMATION FOR LIMITING YUGOSLAV PRESS COVERAGE OF ALGIERS CONFERENCE TO ONE CORRESPONDENT PER EDITORIAL BOARD. CONSIDERING HEATED RHETORIC, CHANGES IN NEWSPAPER'S EDITORIAL BOEZO WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING. END SUMMARY.

2. RECALLING THAT LAST WEEK'S ARTICLE TERMED DELO'S JOURNALISTIC PRACTICES IRRESPONSIBLE, CURRENT KOMUNIST PIECE IS HEADLINED "NOT SOLELY LACK OF RESPONSIBILITY." IT CRITIRNNE EDELO EDITORIAL BOARD, WHICH SIGNED OPEN LETTER RE ALGIERS CONFERENCE COVERAGE (WHICH APPEARED AUGUST 14 NEXT TO ARTICLE CONDEMNING RESTRICTIONS ON REPORTING OF BELGRADE RAILWAY STATION BOMBING, WHICH DREW KOMUNIST'S FIRE LAST WEEK), FOR ASSUMING IT CAN PUBLISH EVERY MESSAGE RECEIVED FROM SOCIAL, STATE OR OTHER BODY AND "INTERPRET" MEANING, IN THIS
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CASE "IMPUGNING" SECRETARIAT'S POSITION ON FOURTH NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE. (AS WITH PREVIOUS ARTICLE ON RESTRICTION OF

PRESS COVERAGE, DELO AGAIN PUBLISHED PART OF OFFICIAL COMMUNICATION INFORMING EDITORIAL BOARDS THAT EACH COULD SEND ONLY ONE CORRESPONDENT TO ALGIERS TO COVER CONFERENCE, AND IF THAT NUMBER PROVED TO BE TOO LARGE, FURTHER REDUCTIONS IN GROUP WOULD BE NECESSARY).

3. KOMUNIST WRITES THAT EVEN IF PUT CAUTIOUSLY DELO EDITORS IMPUTE "EXTREMELY OFFENSIVE POLITICAL MOTIVES" TO SECRETARIAT, WHICH UNBESITTING OF EDITING OF NEWSPAPER, WHEN THEY ASK REPLY TO QUESTIONS SUCH AS SECRETARIAT'S POSITION ON ALGIERS COVERAGE, WHY IT WANTS SMALLEST POSSIBLE YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE THERE AND WHO GAVE IT RIGHT TO DICTATE NUMBER OF JOURNALISTS EDITORS PERMITTED SEND AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE. KOMUNIST STATES NOTION THAT "ONE'S OWN DINAR IS CRITERION OF EVERYTHING HAS WELL-KNOWN APPELLATION."

4. INSTEAD OF PUBLIC LETTER, DELO EDITORS COULD HAVE EXERCISED RIGHT OF ANY PAPER TO PRESENT (PRIVATELY) VIEWS TO SECRETARIAT CONCERNING ITS LIMITATIONS OF PRESS COVERAGE AT ALGIERS, MAGAZINE NOTES. BUT, IT INSINUATES, THIS WOULD HAVE DENIED DELO OPPORTUNITY CAPITALIZE ON PUBLICITY RESULTING FROM ITS "USURPING AND PRIVATIZING" OF INFORMATION MEDIA.

5. KOMUNIST ACCUSES DELO EDITORS OF ACTING IRRESPONSIBLY AND WITH DISRESPECT FOR PRINCIPLES OF YUGOSLAV SELF-MANAGEMENT DEMOCRACY. THEIR METHODS ARE NOT ONLY "UNACCEPTABLE BUT ALSO EXTREMELY DETRIMENTAL." IF DELO ARTICLE REFLECTS ATTITUDE OF NEWSPAPER (EDITORIAL BOARD), KOMUNIST ASSERTS, "THIS NEITHER IS NOR CAN BE THE STAND OF THE ORGANIZATION OF THE LEAGUE OF COMMUNISTS IN DELO."

6. COMMENT: GIVEN SIMILAR CONTENT BUT STRONGER TONE OF THIS SECOND ATTACK ON DELO, WE WOULD NOT BE SURPRISED TO SEE CHANGES IN PERSONNEL ON EDITORIAL BOARD IN NEAR FUTURE. REFERENCE TO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ATTITUDES OF DELO'S EDITORS AND LCY ORGANIZATION IS DOUBTLESS BID FOR PARTY MEMBERS TO AGITATE WITHIN NEWSPAPER'S WORKER'S COUNCIL FOR CHANGE OF EDITORIAL POLICY AT MINIMUM, BUT MORE LIKELY TO REPLACE EDITORS WITH OTHERS
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MORE IN TUNE WITH PARTY LINE.
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